

Housing Crises Dislodges Bayview’s African-American Population

By Andrea de Brito

Over the 20 years Pastor Kenneth Sampson has led the New Home Missionary Baptist Church in Bayview, he’s seen a steady decline in the community’s African-American population. According to Sampson, upwards of a quarter of black residents cashed out their Bayview homes and relocated to the East Bay during the last decade’s housing boom. Now that the market has busted, those same suburbs are dotted with foreclosures.

“The Bayview-Hunters Point had a lot of older black people who owned property. They died, and turned it over to their children. Children would take the property – now worth \$300,000 to \$500,000 – and buy these stupid loans and move to Antioch, Pittsburg, Vallejo, Fairfield, and Tracy,” said Sampson. “Now their houses are upside down. Their jobs are not even secure.” A relative of Sampson, who makes “good money,” bought a house in Tracy, in partnership with another family member, but was unable to pay the mortgage after the monthly payments started to rapidly escalate. One now lives with in-laws in Pinole; the other moved in with a friend in Antioch. “He went from homeowner to renting a room,” Sampson said. “The loans went up, and because you miss a couple of payments, you don’t qualify for loans. It happened to the majority of the people. It affected the neighborhood.”

According to “Mary,” an Antioch-based real estate agent who preferred not to be named, and who is originally from Bayview-Hunters Point, financial products that are now considered “toxic” – which enabled property owners to cash out their equity, followed by escalating mortgage payments – are the primary reason for the foreclosure crisis. Recessionary job loss and health problems leading to astronomical medical bills also play a role.

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Turf Wars Break Out at McKinley Square

By Lori Higa

The new sod at McKinley Square, high atop Vermont and 20th streets, positively glistens with a bright, almost neon green intensity. But even before the temporary signs and fluorescent orange vinyl fences signaling pedestrians to keep off the grass have been removed, debate is raging over how best to use the highly-prized park. More than a dozen Potrero Hill civic groups – ranging from parent associations to dog lovers – are weighing-in on the park’s future. Although conflict has emerged over how best to use the green space, all involved agree: McKinley Square should be properly maintained as clean, green, safe, and accessible.

Two decades ago McKinley Square was a magnet for the dispossessed, taken captive at night by ranks of homeless, drug users and dealers, and prostitutes. The park was littered with discarded needles and condoms. After sunset families and seniors rarely ventured into the space. In 1993 former Hill residents Joan



The playground at McKinley Square. Photograph by Lori Higa.

Ryssen-Anthony and Cathy Franklin started Friends of McKinley Square Park (FOMS) to spearhead efforts to make the park safe for neighborhood residents, particularly parents and their children.

FOMS worked with the City to raise \$750,000, a staggering amount of money at the time. The funds were used to remove abandoned bathroom facilities, making the park less friendly to homeless and transient troublemakers, and to re-configure

park grounds, creating open space, an upper terrace and children’s play areas. By 2000 McKinley Square was flourishing, drawing in families from throughout the City to enjoy its steady sunshine, as well as herds of neighborhood dog walkers.

In 2004 a rash of crime prompted software entrepreneur Cris Rys to start an online discussion group, mckinleysquare.com, focusing on unwanted activity around the park. “My home, neighbors, liquor store, multiple neighbors on San Bruno Avenue had been broken into,” Rys recalled. The online chatter evolved to encompass a variety of neighborhood concerns: lost pets, garage sales and traffic calming. Earlier this year McKinley Square Community Association (MSCA) “banded together off-line because of the condition of the park,” which include dead or dying grass resulting from a broken solar-powered sprinkler system, according to Rys. Around the same time Joyce Book, who lives across from the open space, founded McKinley Square Park Foundation (MSPF) to raise funds for park improvements.

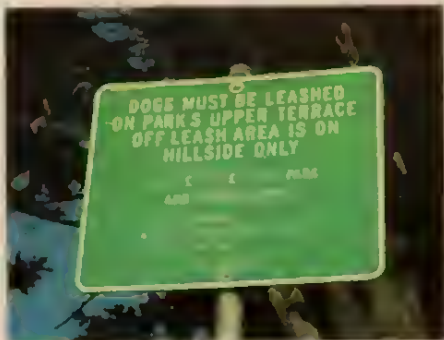
Working together, and sometimes apart, MSCA and MSPF, among other civic groups, convinced the City to re-sod the lawn, at a cost of roughly \$35,000. “Repeated calls to electrical maintenance shop management, and the heavy equipment division of the City’s Rec and Parks department by MSCA board members probably helped the process along,” said Rys, with a slight smile. But making

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Steps leading to McKinley Square, where leash laws cause conflict over use of grassy area. Photographs by Lori Higa.



Southeast San Franciscans Continue to Search for Work

By Herman Wong

In July monthly job losses slowed to just under one-quarter of a million, the lowest since last August, and down from a high of almost three-quarter of a million lay-offs in January, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Federal Reserve declared that “economic activity is leveling out.” Consumer spending was stabilizing,

and the financial markets were finding their equilibrium. The recession, it appeared, had bottomed-out. Still, last month *The New York Times* reported that back-to-school sales are at their worst in more than a decade. Fear about job loss continues to haunt consumers, keeping them out of stores.

Natasha Miley managed to beat the odds to secure a job in the bad economy. When the *View* first spoke with the Potrero Hill resident last

Publisher's View Supervisor

By Steven J. Moss

Last month I filed the necessary state and local papers to launch a campaign for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, representing District 10. In doing so I joined upwards of two dozen candidates, likely including Potrero Neighborhood Boosters president Tony Kelly, and Potrero Hill Democratic Club vice president DeWitt Lacy, in what's evolving into a crowded field of earnest do-gooders looking to do right by their community. Upon announcing their decision to run, these citizen-politicians were probably greeted with a mix of enthusiasm – "Good for you" – incredulity – "Really, you?" – and, perhaps hostility towards local politics – "Why would you want to be on the Board of Stupid-visors?"

Though a few of the candidates are poised to quit their day jobs to pursue the seat full-time, most need to continue to work to pay rent or support families. One of my responsibilities, albeit mostly unpaid, is to publish and edit the *View*. Running for office and running a paper aren't necessarily incompatible, but the two activities, undertaken simultaneously, prompts the need to adhere to ethical and legal standards.

As a neighborhood newspaper, the *View* provides a service that's more akin to a municipal utility than a business; the paper's feeble revenues and cadre of un- or under-paid staff reflect a charity rather than a for-profit enterprise. Yet building off almost four decades of dedication by Ruth Passen, Lester Zeidman, Abigail Johnston, Judy Baston, and many others, the paper, like the Potrero Hill Parents Association listserv and other village assets, provides essential glue to a strikingly

tight community. As the *View's* publisher I have a responsibility to safeguard this asset.

According to the Fair Political Practices Commission, a newspaper columnist seeking political office can continue to write columns, in the same fashion as they've always done. What they can't do is advocate for their election, denigrate other candidates, or engage in direct politicking. Since taking over the *View* four years ago I've written this "Publisher's View" column every month the paper has been issued, save one. I'll continue to do so throughout the campaign period, while steadfastly refraining from asking readers to "vote for me."

The *View* will cover the District 10 election from a fact-based perspective, providing periodic opportunities for "in your own words" statements by the candidates. The paper will not endorse any of the contenders. And we'll offer all who've filed for the race a 50 percent discount on print and online advertisements – a fee my campaign committee will similarly have to pay.

Although District 10 sprawls across what may be San Francisco's most economically and demographically diverse areas, Dogpatch and Potrero Hill are notable for their community cohesion. As neighbors, many of us already know one or more of the candidates and their supporters. We'll get to know them differently over the next year. And, when it's all over, we'll still be neighbors. And the *View* will continue to serve as the City's longest-running community newspaper.

Letter to the Editor

Editor,

I was very surprised to see that a significant shooting, and potential homicide, was missing from the "Police Blotter" in the *View's* August issue. This shooting occurred around 6:45 to 7 p.m., if memory serves, on Friday, July 10th. It transpired in front of the Potrero Hill Recreation Center, with many rapid rounds of shots being fired. Two of the residential buildings across the street from the center were struck with multiple bullets. One of the bullets pierced the redwood siding and interior wall, and entered a front-facing bedroom; luckily no one was inside. One person was found seriously wounded, apparently where he collapsed, somewhere near the intersection of Wisconsin and Madera streets, a block away from the center.

The entire intersection in front of the center – which is located at Arkansas and Madera streets – and the two residential buildings were closed off with yellow police tape. The word from the police was that the wounded person was taken to San Francisco General Hospital in serious condition with trouble breathing. Gang activity is suspected in this incident.

I know the *View* gets its information

directly from the police blotter, so I find it extremely disturbing that this very serious incident, at a public location – where many Hill residents walks their dogs – is un-listed. What kind of semi-automatic fire power and ammunition was being used that would pierce redwood siding and interior walls to threaten residents? It's extremely disconcerting that such serious crimes on the Hill are going unreported/unlisted/undisclosed in official records. This is a disservice to Hill residents, as it puts everyone at increased risk, and undermines our efforts to draw the City's attention to the rise in serious crimes in this area.

Chris Duncan
Arkansas Street

The Police Blotter is by no means a comprehensive accounting of all of the crimes that take place in the neighborhood; it's more akin to a robust summary. There is no real-time, publicly accessible database that provides this information. Perhaps San Francisco's new police chief can bring the City's crime tracking infrastructure into the modern age, enabling citizens and journalists to fully identify the crimes committed in our communities. - Editor

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Short Cuts

Power

City Attorney and Dogpatch resident **Dennis Herrera** may have thrown the last stone that will topple the Potrero Power Plant. Under a proposed legal settlement – that needs to be endorsed by the Mayor and Board of Supervisors – **Mirant Corporation** will join the City in advocating that the 40-year-old natural gas and diesel-fired plant be shuttered by the end of 2010, and contributing \$1 million to help pay for neighborhood public health initiatives, such as supporting an asthma clinic. In return, Mirant would receive expedited review for any future development projects at the site, and the City would withdraw its demand that five unoccupied brick structures owned by the company be fixed. Meanwhile, the **California Independent System Operator's** (Cal-ISO) latest data indicates that San Francisco will have more than enough electricity supplies after the Trans Bay Cable is operational next spring without the Potrero Power Plant. Still, Cal-ISO has yet to signal that it's ready to release the entire plant from its obligation to remain in service. Your help is needed to pry the state agency's fingers off our local smoke stack. Cal-ISO is likely to make a decision on the plant's future at its September 10 and 11 board meeting; encourage them to do the right thing by acting on the plant closure advertisement that appears later in this issue...Three hundred mostly small businesses reduced their electricity use by more than five megawatts for two hours when they were asked to do so by Dogpatch-based nonprofit **San Francisco Community Power** last month. The businesses are participating in a "demand-response" program that pays them a few dollars to temporarily reduce their electricity use when electricity supplies are tight. Harnessing the power of small businesses kilowatt by kilowatt is another way to kill power plants; death by a thousand nicks.

Buses

The **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency** is changing a number of the bus routes that serve Potrero Hill, with some stops eliminated, and new lines being added. The 48 and 22 are being re-routed, and will no longer transverse the middle of the community. The 53 is being replaced by the 10, and the 12, 33, and the new 58 will all run through the neighborhood, with the 10 providing the first service from the top of the Hill to downtown. The 19 will still travel to the Civic Center Bay Area Rapid Transit station. Most of the changes appear to appeal to Hill residents, but some parents are concerned that increased bus traffic at the Connecticut and 20th street bus stop could pose risks to children visiting the library, as well as pedestrians on their way to nearby stores, delis, and cafes at the heavily used intersection. Likewise, with the 48 re-routed to run along the southern edge of Potrero Annex and Terrace to Third Street there will be no east-west connection to the top of the Hill, potentially disrupting transportation for families traveling from the Mission District to Starr King Elementary School's Spanish immersion program, among others. The complete set of changes can be seen at http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mtep/documents/District10_8-26-08rev.pdf. If you don't like what you see, tell Muni about it: the agency is sponsoring a community meeting at 1 p.m., September 3, at the **Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**...Speaking of the Mission, recently heard on that street, spoken by a tattered-at-the-edges hipster talking on a cell-phone: "How the hell can you be a Buddhist? I hate Buddhists!"

Businesses

For those standing in line for **Goat Hill Pizza's** all-you-can-eat-Mondays at 5 p.m. sharp, it's time to fall back:

all-you-can-it-night now starts at 4 p.m. Just remember to skip lunch that day, so you have room for a multiple-slice dinner... **La Fleur** opened last month on 20th and Arkansas streets. Offering haircuts, eyelash extensions, nails, and waxing, the shop is the second business to chance the location in the wake of long-time hair salon **Michael Gary** moving on a couple of years ago...**Sunflower Vietnamese Cooking** also launched last month across the street from Goat Hill Pizza. The corner has been haunted by a string of short-lived restaurants since that lovely Greek restaurant – what was its name – departed in the 1990s. Let's hope Sunflower lasts a good long time...**Urhino**, the highly anticipated Dogpatch restaurant tied to Chef Nate Appleman of A16 and SPQR fame, appears over before it began. Food blogs are blaming leasing issues and timing for the Italian restaurant's apparently scotched plans. Appleman's sudden departure from both existing restaurants – and San Francisco altogether – certainly play into the news. Appleman, who'd recently won acclaim as *Food & Wine's* Best New Chef, and then picked up the national James Beard Foundation award for Rising Star, relocated to New York City in late July and will be soon be featured as a contestant on the Food Network's *The Next Iron Chef*. Interior construction of the Urbino restaurant property, slated to open in the fall at Minnesota Street's **Homes on Esprit Park**, had not yet begun. No word on what will fill the now-unclaimed space, or the Esprit Park unit that Appleman reportedly purchased for himself prior to changing coasts... **Robin Brouillette** apparently was evicted from her upscale haberdashery, next door to Farley's, owing her landlord a fair sum. As reported in the *View* when the store first opened, it wasn't the first time fancy clothes failed to pay the bills. San Francisco has lost 90,000 jobs – 15 percent of its workforce – since the 2001 dot.com bust. Meanwhile the Great Recession has emptied out 10 million square feet of office space in the City, enough to fill nine Bank of America buildings... While to a casual eye it doesn't look like things have improved much, on Third Street in the Bayview, storefront vacancies are down 15 percent, and sales tax revenues are up 26 percent. Movement it is, but a shift from not much to a little more is a pale victory. Nothing plus nothing still equals nothing... "How's business?" asked one merchant to another. "Not so good," he replied, "Even the customers who don't pay their bills aren't buying."

Water

Long-time Potrero Hill resident **Edward Lortz** caught the *San Francisco Chronicle's* attention by pointing out a decade-old leak at Missouri and 19th streets. According to Lortz, the **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission**, which manages the City's water system, told him five years ago that the leak was coming from an underground spring, but a SFPUC worker told him several months ago that the problem was something else. Adding to the mystery, a SFPUC sawhorse was put over the leaking sidewalk last spring, ostensibly because work was being done to stanch the running water. But the trickle continues, along with the sawhorse. After hearing from the *Chronicle* about Lortz's complaint, the agency sent a leak-detection crew to find out what's going on.

Garbage

New garbage rates went into effect over the summer. The basic rate for a 32 gallon can is now \$25.48 a month, while a 20 gallon receptacle is \$19.62 a month. Blue recycling and green compost bins are free...Both **Franklin Square** and **Potrero del Sol** are on the **Department of Recreation and Park's** list to receive new or refurbished bathrooms, outcomes that may be achieved before the next presidential election...According to Park and Rec communications director Lisa Seitz-Gruel, renovations at the **Jackson Park Clubhouse** are underway "to preserve the structural integrity of the building. We don't have a date when that work will be completed," but a timeline should be available by the time the September *View* goes to press.

Cool Cats

Nonprofit **Toni's Kitty Rescue**, which provides care for feral cats, as well as abandoned, orphaned and surrendered kittens, has already served more animals this year than the total number rescued in 2008. The economy may be responsible: if you can't afford cat food, you can't afford a cat. Even in a typical year Toni's works with more than 700 kittens. If you'd like to donate to the cause, contact **Toni Sestak**, 828.4153... Speaking of Good Samaritans, on an early Saturday evening last month Potrero Hill mom **Tricia Lawrence** left her purse, filled with identification, credit cards, and cash, hanging on the fence at McKinley Square. The following Sunday morning, before Lawrence was even aware it was missing, the purse was delivered to her home by neighborhood dentist **Sam Thatcher**...And a very happy 80th birthday to **Dick Millet**!

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It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's a Superhero Street Fair!

By Greg Thomas

Caped crusaders materialized en masse behind a Dogpatch warehouse this summer, to defend their neighborhood and express their truest and most super selves. Roughly 3,000 costumed characters found their way to the water's edge at the most southern stretch of Indiana Street, where, under the blazing sun and blasting beats, they shed their alter egos and got loose.

Proceeds from Where Ordinary People Do Extraordinary Things – \$10 admission for costumed people, \$20 for those in “Clark Kent” attire – were donated to Hunters Point Family, San Francisco Food Bank, Bayview Opera House, Box Shop, India Basin Neighborhood Association, and artist Peter Hudson. “Each of them has truly made our community a better place,” stated the fair’s press release. “We wanted to recognize [these organizations] for their superhero-like qualities that inspire us and, we hope, you too, in order to bring out the superhero in each of us,” said fair co-producer Laird Archer.

“Anyone who dresses up gets an ‘A’ in my book,” said Rick Pickett, a tower of a man clad in brown head-to-toe spandex. Sporting a pink, fabric heart symbol sewed to his chest, Pickett identified as one of about a half-dozen “Love Bandits” roaming from stage to stage in one-piece neon-colored suits. Standing beside him, one of his arch nemeses, Luke Johnson, expounded on the merits of superherodom. “There’s a

certain power in anonymity and total celebrity,” Johnson said from behind a pair of dark sunglasses. “I have to hide my identity. It’s part of what makes me super.”

The street fair took place on the Mayan Day Out of Time. “According to the ancient Mayan Thirteen Moon Calendar, the extra “Day Out of Time” added at the end of the 13 Moon cycle is an occasion to cancel debts, to pardon and forgive, and to celebrate life through art and culture,” the press release stated. “It is on this day that we refocus on our actions and ways to improve our community.”

The fair marked the first public event held at the Islais Creek Promenade. The promenade extends roughly 100 yards along the bay near 3rd Street and Cesar Chavez, and is a magnet for skateboarders. Their kick-flips and aerials added to the festive environment, which included collections of comic-influenced works by graphic artists and video artists.

Uninitiated, un-costumed event could find their alter ego at Madame Eggplant’s, a.k.a. Davia DePaolis of Bernal Heights, Telephone Booth, a throwback to a pre-cell phone era when the booths served superheroes as on-the-go sidewalk changing rooms. Ordinary Jack and Jane Doe’s entered and, voila!; eye-masked, belted, caped and transformed into their super alter egos.

“I’m here to take care of the super people who forgot their costumes,” DePaolis said. “Sometimes, superheroes can be super forgetful!”

For fair info; superherosf.com.




David Suen (middle), of the Mission District, emerges from the Telephone Booth at the Superhero Street Fair as his alter-ego, Super Say Wha? thanks to the creative expertise of Madame Eggplant (right) and Golden Rod (left).

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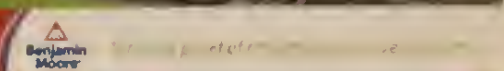
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The Port of San Francisco Works to Preserve Pier 70's Historic Resources

By Mike Stillman

A collection of dilapidated but historically significant buildings populate Pier 70, a 65-acre parcel that stretches from Illinois Street to the bay. The pier stands alongside Treasure Island and the Hunters Point Shipyard as one of the last remaining sites for large scale development in the City. If all goes according to the Port of San Francisco's plans, over the next decade the buildings will be renovated as part of a new mixed use neighborhood.

The port, which has owned the land and the buildings on Pier 70 since 1982, when they bought the site from Bethlehem Steel for one dollar, wants to see the buildings restored, a vision shared by preservationists and Dogpatch residents. But all that can be said with any certainty about the buildings' future is that time is running out. "There's a huge sense of urgency... to save these buildings," said David Beaupre, the port's senior waterfront planner. "I feel like we're fortunate that [the buildings are] still standing, and that if we don't do something quickly, we're gonna lose some national treasures," he said.

The site has generated interest from developers in the past, but previous attempts at redevelopment fell through due to high project costs.

The port doesn't have the money for renovations, and has been working to piece together a mix of public and private sector funding resources. Proposition D, which passed in November 2008, and Assembly Bill 1176, currently pending approval in the California Legislature, have the potential to cover \$200 million of the estimated \$350 million in renovation costs.

With the help of Carey & Company, the port has begun the process of nominating Pier 70 for the National Register of Historic Places. Once the pier is added to the Register, project developers will receive a tax credit equal to 20 percent of the costs they incur renovating the buildings. The port plans to release a request for qualifications, the first step in lining up a developer, by the end of the year.

For more than a century Pier 70 was home to the Union Iron Works shipyard, later operated by Bethlehem steel. The company employed thousands of skilled workers - many of whom lived in Dogpatch and Potrero Hill - who built more than 500 vessels, including the first steel hulled ship on the Pacific Coast, early submarine models, and a variety of naval warships. After World War II, ship building slowed down, and the pier was used for ship

conversion and repair projects. BAE systems still repairs ships at the site, but over the years the pier's massive structures have gradually been vacated and left to deteriorate.

"The Pier 70 area is one of the most important historical sites on the West Coast," said local historian Ralph Wilson, a software designer who maintains the website, www.pier70sf.org. "It includes many significant structures that represent almost the whole history of American industrial development up to the second world war." Noted architects designed some of the huge warehouses and ornate office buildings that are spread throughout the pier. Other buildings were constructed rapidly to keep up with the pace of wartime production. The pier's oldest buildings date to the late 1800s. These boarded-up artifacts of San Francisco's industrial past exemplify rare styles of architecture, and are an important piece of the City's labor history.

Pier redevelopment will likely transform Dogpatch, which is already being buffeted from development waves created by the University of California, San Francisco's, Mission Bay campus. Most of the pier's historical buildings will be converted into office space, light industry, and other commercial

purposes. According to Mark Paez, a port planner, these types of uses will generate the lease payments needed to cover renovation costs. There are plans to set aside at least one of the buildings for public use. The development will also provide bay access and nine acres of open space, which will be dispersed throughout Pier 70.

According to Susan Eslick, vice president of The Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, "businesses in Dogpatch will benefit from a preserved and enhanced Pier 70. This will become a destination for visitors from all over." Eslick sees the buildings as an essential part of a rejuvenated site. "The workers at Union Iron works lived in Dogpatch and therefore both historic places support each other... if [the buildings] were not saved Dogpatch would lose it's left hand, it's foundation... Dogpatch would be somewhat taken out of context."

The port has classified the buildings as Very Significant, Significant, Context, and Non-contributing Resources. The Pier 70 *Master Plan* calls for the rehabilitation of all Very Significant and Significant resources, a total of twenty-one buildings, with

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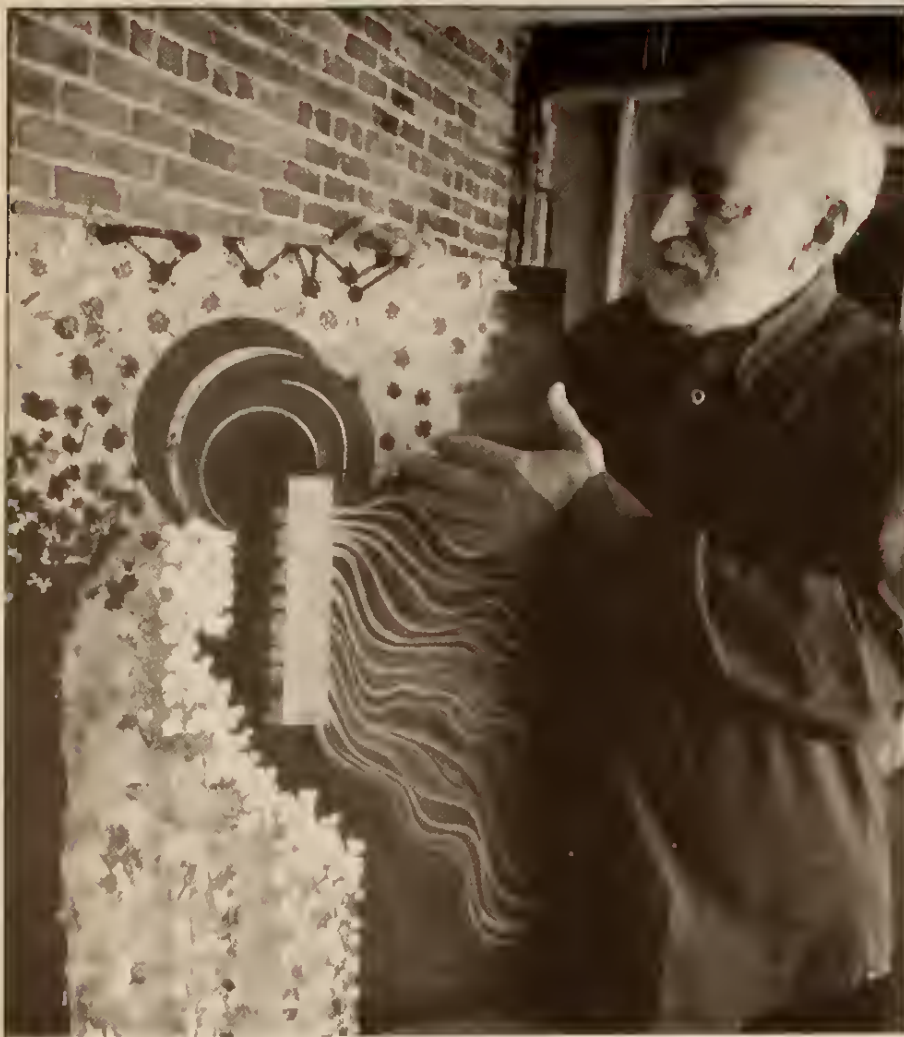
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Terry Lindahl's verticle tryptich paintings are on display at Farley's this month. Signals From the Vagus Gyre celebrates Lindahl's 30 years of living on Potrero Hill, and represents an "... initial foray toward bringing together a syncretic expression of Art, Science and the sense of Natural Aspiration." After working for many years as an architect, Lindahl established the San Francisco Gurdjieff Society at 312 Connecticut Street, the former site of New Potrero Theater, in 1993. The Society has extensively remodeled their black-columned red brick building, and recently started the Entropy/Conciousness Institute, "...dedicated to the development of a cosmopomoral-organic Theory of Everything (Necessary to Live Sanely With Purpose)." Lindahl will be at Farley's each Friday evening in September from 6 to 8 p.m. to discuss his art and philosophy. -Peter Linethal

Caltrans Tries to Drive Over Pennsylvania Garden

By Anthony Myers

In Southeast San Francisco open space is at a premium, causing a growing movement by residents to take neighborhood beautification into their own hands. This summer the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) decided that one such effort, the Pennsylvania Garden, located near the Interstate 280 exit loop at 18th Street, had been constructed without a permit. Now Caltrans' Adopt-A-Highway program, which oversees community-based beautification activities, and has known about the garden since January, must appeal to its Office of Traffic Operations to determine the garden's future.

According to Adopt-A-Highway Program Coordinator Arnold Joe, "The state doesn't have the money to beautify that area." He suggested transferring maintenance of the plot to the San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW), though it's unclear whether DPW would be in any better position to provide funding for it. Joe has scheduled a meeting with DPW's Community Liaison Officer Sandra Zuniga to facilitate approval of a Caltrans permit that would bring the garden into compliance. But until that meeting takes place or a permit is granted, the garden will retain its guerrilla status. Without sanctioning the garden, Joe said Adopt-A-Highway's job is to facilitate beautification of roadside areas, and that anybody wanting to do other garden projects on Caltrans land should contact him.

Annie Shaw, the garden's primary caretaker, met with Caltrans in late July to present the department with 281 signatures from Potrero Hill residents who want the garden to remain intact. According to Shaw's Pennsylvania Garden website, pennsylvaniagarden.blogspot.com, Caltrans indicated that stair steps that had been constructed were tripping hazards, and a proposed bench would attract the homeless. Caltrans also stated that persons under the age of 16 may not enter the garden, and that crossing the road at the exit ramp isn't allowed.

"Obviously these are sensible rules for freeways," Shaw said. "Pennsylvania Garden is not a freeway. But are they able to bend the rules? We shall see if they come back with directives to remove the items anyway." Shaw worried that a metal archway would have to come

down, and the woven twig borders would be ordered removed. Caltrans Office Chief of Traffic Operations Roland Au-Yeung will render a final decision on what elements can stay.

Conflict over how best to develop the Pennsylvania Garden prompted neighborhood debate over the merits of having two highway exit ramps at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The garden abuts an I-280 exit loop that dumps traffic onto Pennsylvania Avenue. The loop also sits only a few feet away from an 18th Street exit from the same ramp. Eighteenth Street resident Sean O'Boyle lamented that he had nearly been run over at the intersection. "That ramp encourages people to enter Pennsylvania Avenue northbound at freeway speeds," O'Boyle said. "Why does that stupid loop even exist? Why not continue to the stop sign and make a couple of right turns? I wouldn't be sad to see the loop closed." O'Boyle also suggested that closing the loop would allow a larger garden to be built.

Shaw, who lives on 17th Street, planted her garden on what she thought was City property. The exit loop runs between her garden and a smaller parcel that the Potrero Hill Community Garden had tried to adopt a couple of years ago, and which is also being reclaimed by neighborhood activists. Missouri Street resident Amaranth Pai said that he hoped the garden work would carry on, and that the dual freeway exits would eventually be consolidated. "I've complained about it on potrero-neighbors mailing list because it seems kind of pointless to have two exits a block away from each other," Pai said. "Caltrans is being lame about Annie's garden and trying to shut down certain improvements she made, perhaps because the Mariposa/18th exit has had collisions/accidents occur there in the past and they think there would be risk. I think Caltrans is being dumb and signed a petition to this effect."

Shaw used to live across the street from the garden. Even though she now resides a couple blocks away, she remains committed to the project. She's made plans to welcome the Potrero Hill Garden Tour, sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library, to the garden on September 13. "I'm going a little nuts trying to get everything tidy for that," she said on her blog.

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Slow Food Event Aims to Raise Consciousness about School Lunches

By Mary Purpura

This year on Labor Day, September 7, Slow Food USA, the American branch of a global, grassroots movement that promotes healthy eating, will coordinate Time for Lunch at more than 200 locations around the country. Time for Lunch revolves around eat-ins that feature healthy foods that are locally grown and produced. The main San Francisco eat-in venue will be Civic Center Plaza, with tables and chairs for 500 people and a potluck, outdoor meal from noon to 3 p.m. A satellite eat-in will be held at Potrero Hill's 18th and Rhode Island Permaculture Garden from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The main point of these events is to educate people about what's going on in our public schools' food systems," explained Dava Guthmiller, president of Slow Food San Francisco and a Potrero Hill resident. According to Guthmiller, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides a \$2.57 subsidy to pay for every free school lunch. "Once labor, electricity, transportation, and pest control are paid for out of that \$2.57, there's very little left over to actually spend on food," said Guthmiller.

According to Guthmiller, lunch ingredients are often grown in California, transported out of state for processing, and then sent back to the state to be micro-waved or deep-fried in school kitchens before being served to children. To encourage healthier foods and more local food sourcing, Slow Food San Francisco has funded the establishment of school gardens, as well as classes in growing and cooking food, at various San Francisco elementary schools, including Paul Revere and Sanchez.

"We target elementary-aged children since they're still quite open to these issues, and we want to instill good eating habits in them from an early age," said Guthmiller. She pointed out that everyone – not just kids and their parents – should be paying attention to food-related issues. "When you look at what we as a society spend in health care dollars for adults and children who have chronic, often preventable diseases,

such as diabetes and obesity, and you also consider that a healthy diet plays a huge role in interfering with the development of those diseases, it seems like common sense for us as a society to do all we can to introduce healthy eating habits in youth," she said.

David Cody, coordinator of the 18th and Rhode Island Permaculture Garden, agrees that outreach to youth is critical. "Any successful movement must include children," said Cody. "It's important to popularize permaculture among adults, but if we want it to last and become incorporated into the culture of tomorrow, we'll have to reach out to children."

According to Cody, Time for Lunch cuts to the heart of what permaculture seeks to accomplish. "Slow Food is an organization with a specific focus on healthy, local food," he said. "Permaculture, on the other hand, offers a macro lens, which leads to holistic, integrated solutions to the world's problems. We can all agree, though, that food is the largest ecological challenge we face. Slow, healthy food grown in local communities has the potential to rekindle the connections between people and the food that nourishes them that have characterized most of human history."

The Labor Day events represent a big undertaking, but Slow Food San Francisco's commitment to the school lunch issue is ongoing. The organization sponsors a school lunch working group that includes parents, teachers, nutritionists, and cafeteria workers. The group is open to anyone who shares an interest in getting healthy foods into schools. It meets every two weeks, sometimes on Potrero Hill, sometimes in the Castro.

To participate in Time for Lunch, bring your own plates, cups, silverware, and a dish to share. To learn more, call Slow Food San Francisco at 957.1313. Those interested in learning more about permaculture are welcome to join the Potrero Hill-based permaculture design course starting on September 5. For information: <http://www.permaculture-sf.org/fall-2009-pdc.htm>

Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School Find a New Home

By Halley Cornell

Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School (FPHN) has reached an agreement with the San Francisco School Board to lease the historic Irving Murray Scott School, which started as an eight-room building in 1877, and is the City's oldest schoolhouse. Under the ten-year deal, FPHN will restore two outbuildings on the school's Tennessee Street grounds, creating the school's first permanent home in more than five years. "The school board offered us a very, very generous rental agreement, and our side of the deal is that we have to restore the buildings," said Kristi Chester Vance, FPHN board member and mother of both a past and future school attendee.

FPHN, which has "graduated" some 200 students, 85 percent of whom go on to attend public schools, has been couch-surfing for the past half-decade, with stays at Starr King Elementary, Potrero Neighborhood House and its current Excelsior location. The I.M. Scott buildings – two tired tan bungalows previously used as school outbuildings – will be transformed into a permanent preschool and a small neighborhood-use building for family education activities. The 10-year lease includes an option for a 10-year extension once restoration is complete, and offers not only a more stable environment for FPHN's students but a chance for the school to contribute to San Francisco's historic heritage.

"It will be nice to finally get those buildings fixed up," said Dr. Joe Marshall, executive director of Omega Boys Club/Street Soldiers, an organization that focuses on

youth development and violence prevention that's housed in I.M. Scott's main building. "The outside [of the building] has been painted and there's a basketball court up now, so the only unfinished business is those two bungalows."

Refurbishment comes at a price. The buildings will cost more than \$600,000 to renovate, with just \$120,000 raised so far through a pair of leadership grants. The FPHN board is working feverishly to raise the remaining funds, in part through an October 4 public party, Raise the Roof, that will feature bicycle-powered bands, speakers, and drawings of the proposed property renovations.

"It's amazing the sort of in-kind support we're getting already. We've got an architect, a painter, furniture, someone involved in cabinetry, a development person who does foundation work," said Vance. "There's just this huge well of support to draw from, and all these incredible connections lined up."

FPHN hopes that the money it's already secured will give other grantors and foundations – as well as Potrero Hill residents – confidence that the project is viable and worth supporting. According to Vance, the preschool will improve neighborhood infrastructure, including maintaining green and historic building features, while helping families stay in the City. "In San Francisco, we just see such an exodus of families, and early childhood education is key to keeping families here in Potrero Hill. Our job is to support working families who want to send their kids to this school," she said. FPHN plans to move to the I.M. Scott campus next fall.

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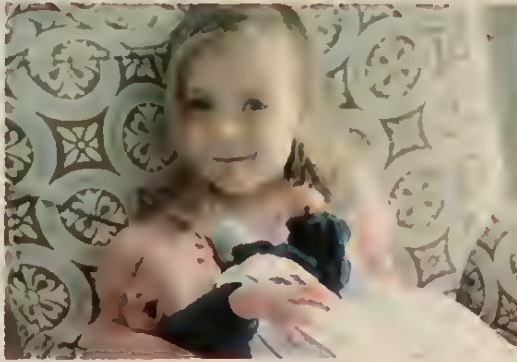


Kids on the Block

By Stacey Bartlett



Happy birthday to Jessica, with love from big brother Joshua, Mummy and Dada.



Congratulations to Avery Sullivan, two and a half, who welcomed home her new baby sister Annabelle Graham Sullivan, and baby brother Charles Michael Sullivan. The twins were born on July 2nd, healthy and strong and thrilled to meet their family.

Zachary and Isla Bradford are setting sail for their new home in Bocas Del Toro, Panama. Zachary has chosen the pirate name "Chest Finder." Isla has been designated with the pirate name "Stinky Bart." Look to the View for updates on their year abroad.



Henry, Lyla, Summer and Kevin (not pictured) are members of Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster's first graduating class. Your classmates and teachers will miss you. Good luck in kindergarten!



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Continued on Page 17

Efforts to Reclaim Bluepeter Building Focus on Economic Viability

By Lisa Tehrani

Friends of Bluepeter, a group of a dozen people committed to saving Dogpatch's Bluepeter building from demolition, gathered together this summer to solicit community members' views about how they'd like the facility to be used if it's successfully preserved. Located on Illinois Street, the sixty-six year old building is scheduled to be demolished, with the land converted into a park, under the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's *Mission Bay Redevelopment Plan*. However, some community members would prefer to see the building rehabilitated for a public use, with open space planned around it.

The Redevelopment Agency and Port Authority charged Friends of Bluepeter with presenting an analysis of how the building can be renovated and operated without relying on City funds. Early estimates indicate that restoring the building may cost more than \$2 million.

While most of the meeting attendees were supportive of the effort, some were undecided and others in opposition. Corrine Woods, who serves on the Redevelopment Agency's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) and lives nearby, reminded meeting participants that Bluepeter isn't considered a historic building, and that efforts to save Pier

70 should take precedence, calling the Bluepeter effort "a distraction."

Janet Carpinelli, along with fellow Dogpatch resident Vanessa Aquino, and Potrero Hill resident and Mission Bay CAC member Dick Millet, are leading the charge to preserve Bluepeter. As chair of GreenTrustSF, Carpinelli pointed out that she works to protect, promote and secure quality green space that serves a wide variety of users. She thinks that Bluepeter can be a draw within the park, and serve as a link to the Central Waterfront's maritime history.

San Francisco has seen its share of community-led efforts to save old buildings. Friends of 1800 Market was launched in 1997 to preserve the Carmel Fallon Building. With support from 30 community members, it took more than five years to accomplish that task. The building was eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places, which helped the preservation effort. After \$1.5 million was raised, 1800 Market was eventually restored. The group's founder, Tom Mayer, thinks that support from San Francisco Heritage and the community is essential in making any progress on the Bluepeter effort, but acknowledges that it may be more challenging given the Redevelopment Agency's and Port's role.

Equity Community Builders,

a local real estate development firm, is conducting the feasibility analysis. Project manager Ted Lieser led the meeting, which was held at Kelly's Mission Rock, with more than twenty attendees on hand. According to Lieser, "This study will help demonstrate whether or not the Bluepeter is worth saving from demolition, and how the building can become an asset to the community once again." Participants voiced interest in making the building a museum, food court, fish market, recreation center, boat and maritime recreation center, among other things.

Lieser plans to present the feasibility analysis at this month's Redevelopment Agency's CAC meeting. Although the study isn't complete, some of the proposed uses will not likely be viable, with food service the most promising. A mix of two or more activities might be the most desirable building use. Architectural plans developed by Jackson Liles provide several design alternatives for the space, with an option to improve the existing mezzanine and double the amount

of usable space from 6,000 to 12,000 square feet.

If the building is saved, it must comply with a public trust, according to David Beaupre, the Port Authority's Master Planning Project Manager. Under the trust, all port lands are owned by the people of California, and need to be directed towards water dependent uses or to attract people to the waterfront, and must serve regional purposes, limiting future Bluepeter uses. Beaupre noted that several of the uses suggested by meeting participants wouldn't be allowed under the public trust, such as a bookstore and community meeting space.

Lieser admitted that the project has some big hurdles to overcome, but explained, "We feel the building has a lot of potential, and that it has some historic significance. It is in a fantastic location and we think that it could activate the park it is within as well as provide a valuable community asset." According to Carpinelli, Friends of Bluepeter is waiting for the study's results before moving forward with fundraising.

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Did you know that a new Friends of Potrero preschool and a family center will return the site to its educational roots?

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The Arkansas Community Garden, which borders the Connecticut Friendship Garden between 20th and 21st streets, is blooming with flowers and vegetables planted by its 15 members. The garden is open to the public seasonally. Photograph by Marjorie Hill.



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PARAGON
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The French Connect in Potrero

By Sarah Marloff

The American Industrial Center (AIC), located on Illinois Street, is home to more than 300 small businesses and nonprofit organizations, at least seven of which are owned or operated by people from France. "It's like a village in here, a micro-society," said Ruben Donze, General Manager of Bouvet, which specializes in decorative hardware products.

Donze's wife, Adeline Betrix – also from France – serves as marketing manager for Blue Orange Games, which creates board games for children and adults. Blue Orange's president, Julien Mayot, started the company in 2000 after driving across the United States with 300 Goblet, Blue Orange's first product: a memory game, similar to Tic Tac Toe, where the goal is to get four pieces in a row. Mayot distributed all 300 games before planting his stake in San Francisco. Blue Orange Games now employs five French employees. Every year the game purveyor hires two interns from France to travel the country visiting customers and setting up new accounts.

"We try to hire French youth who've just finished their studies to give them the chance to discover a new country, a new culture, and a new way of doing business," Betrix said. Betrix herself originally interned for the company in 2004 and "hasn't left since." "All our games are created in house and the designs have a very French touch," said Betrix. Blue Orange is an eco-friendly company, planting two trees for every tree they use to produce their wooden games. "We have won the first Dr. Toy Green Company Award," said Betrix. Blue Orange Games can be found at specialty toy stores throughout the City, and will be featured at Barnes and Nobles and Whole Foods this December.

Another of AIC's French tenants is Alter Eco, which sells fair trade food products, including chocolates, rice, and quinoa. Alter Eco's Dogpatch office was opened in 2004 by co-founders Mathieu Senard and Edouard Rollet, but the company's Paris headquarters' has been around since 1998. The company has three full time French employees and two Americans, though they'd like to expand their American workforce.

"It's just easier," said Senard, about local hiring, "They don't have to struggle with visas, and besides to be successful in the U.S. we need people who know the U.S." After Eco's products can be found at Whole Foods and Rainbow Grocery.

Mathieu Ramage is the media and editorial manager of L'Atelier, another of AIC's French business. L'Atelier, a technology consulting company, opened its doors almost three years ago. The firm has two French, two American, and a Spanish employee. Like other French companies, L'Atelier brings interns from France. "Our interns work for six months in France to learn the trade and then come here for another six months for language or American business skills," said Ramage.

According to Donze there are at least four other French-operated businesses located at AIC, including Prime, a French company that's assisting an American firm establish a branch in Paris; Palma VFX, a 3D animation and visual effects company; La Colombe Torrefaction, which produces fine coffee; and a new startup geared towards soccer statistics analysis. "I think it's simply coincidence that there are so many French businesses in Potrero," said Donze. Senard, a Potrero Hill resident, hypothesized that French people came to Potrero because it's "fog proof. French people often leave France to run away from the cold and rain, so we look for sunny places to live in." Senard's favorite French restaurants in San Francisco include Chez Papa, Plouf, and Garcon, while Donze recommends Le Charme for a good deal and Cote Sud for a nice atmosphere.

"A lot of personal friendships have been formed in the building. We eat lunch together almost every day," said Donze. He and his wife visit their families in France at least once a year, but would like to go more often. "Sometimes, when I go back I feel like I am seeing it as a tourist would. I'm starting to feel a bit like a stranger," Donze shrugged. However, both are happy living in Cole Valley, and treasure their American friends, giving them credit for teaching them English. "I love San Francisco, my job and my wonderful circle of friends," exclaimed Betrix.

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Continued from Page 6

removal of any of these structures only allowed under "extraordinary circumstances." Some of the Context and Non-Contributing Resources will have to be demolished to make way for new development.

Using the port's numerical classifications, historian Ralph Wilson said Building 113, The Union Iron Works Machine Shop, is the most historically significant, and his personal favorite. Beaupre agreed, "When there's an earthquake the first thing I think about is where my daughter and my wife are, and the second thing I think about is, is Building 113 still standing?"

Constructed in 1886, Building 113 is the site's oldest structure. Large steel sash windows and an immense, open interior give the 450 foot long brick building a cathedral like feel. From Illinois Street the building's gable can be seen towering above the pier's smaller structures. Renovation costs for this building alone could exceed \$50 million. According to Beaupre, Building 113 will most likely be used as public space, possibly a center for the arts or an open air European style market. Building 113, "really is the single most important building on the site," said Paez, "yet it's really deteriorated and every year that goes by, we worry more about what might happen if there is another earthquake or a big storm."

District 10 Supervisor Candidates Introduce Themselves

By Joni Eisen

The Potrero Hill Democratic Club hosted its first open mic for candidates for District 10 Supervisor last month. A crowd of 50 heard six candidates introduce themselves in random order.

Longtime Bayview Hunters Point activist Linda Richardson cited the thousands of community meetings she's attended and the numerous commissions on which she has served while working for environmental justice in the southeastern neighborhoods. She also described her involvement with various environmental, land use and transportation issues, including Third Street Light Rail and closing the Hunters Point Power Plant.

Potrero View Editor and Publisher Steven Moss said that as founder of SF Community Power he has worked with low-income families and small businesses "trying to make things work better." He envisions himself doing that for government as well. He stressed the importance of civility in governmental discourse, and identified the need for more large-scale open space as a crucial issue in southeastern San Francisco.

Native San Franciscan Malia Cohen mentioned a third grade field

trip she took to meet the Mayor of San Francisco at City Hall as her first inspiration to enter public service. She asserted that she has since worked to make a difference in government and with her church and community. With a background in political science and public policy and varied work experience, she characterized herself as a bridge-builder on a human level.

Eric Smith, whose background is in art and music, has lived in various San Francisco neighborhoods since 1999. He expressed shock at the multiple environmental challenges in District 10, calling it a dumping ground for San Francisco. Inspired by George Washington Carver, he is a leader in the local biofuel movement. Having always been involved in environmental justice, he emphasized green jobs as a key solution.

Real estate agent and Obama campaign activist Diane Westley Smith was raised in the housing projects, believing education is the way out of poverty. She described her

passion to work with at-risk youth in the Bayview to address the lack of economic fairness in District 10, which she called "the trash bucket" of the City with its pervasive health issues. She vowed to be the thread to connect all of District 10 as one community.

Civil rights attorney DeWitt Lacy stated that he has witnessed victimization of friends and family by a system that does not value those with less. Raised and educated in the Bay Area, he named President Obama and his hard-working, self-sacrificing parents as his major inspirations. He thinks success should be measured by how much one can do for others and he called for a return to San Francisco's past social justice and activist spirit of the 1970s.

The Potrero Hill Democratic Club will offer more opportunities to meet the candidates for the November 2010 District 10 race, and host a candidates' forum as the election draws near.

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STREET DETRITUS

Photographs by Edward Lortz

Communication cabinets, newspaper boxes, overhead telephone wires, garbage cans. All of these items, useful, or not, tend to serve as backdrops to our neighborhood. The View thought it was worth taking a look at what surrounds us. Feel free to send us your photographs or your favorite, or least favorite, street detritus.



20th and Wisconsin streets



18th and Missouri streets



20th and Kansas streets



22nd and de Haro streets



22nd and Wisconsin streets



across from the potrero hill library, at
20th near Connecticut streets



20th and Missouri streets

McKinley Square

Continued from Front Page

the grass grow is just the start of MSCA's long wish list for the park. The association wants to add a new pathway to existing benches once the temporary fence comes down, and new stairs on the park's hilly, western side. MSCA is also calling for a community kiosk, more wood chips, doggie poop bag receptacles and a new water fountain with doggie bowl near 20th street and San Bruno Avenue.

In July MSCA installed a board of nine directors, including Rys, D.B. Spahn, Tom Strother, Jane Westfall,

Susan Reiner-Lyon, Tricia Lawrence, Susanna Upton, Jason Johnson and Christopher Irion. While not yet a nonprofit, MSCA is fiscally sponsored by San Francisco Parks Trust. In addition to park improvements, the association is organizing volunteers for foxtail eradication, keeping an eye on the annual Big Wheel race on Vermont Street's curvy section, and helping to establish a new community garden at "The Benches" at 18th and San Bruno Avenue. Rys has floated the idea of adding two new art benches in McKinley Square, possibly recruiting local kids or artists to make mosaic tiles for them.

Like many online groups populated by participants who are passionate about their concerns, MSCA's online discussions have occasionally grown heated, leading to screening of messages by listserv monitors. This, in turn, triggered a backlash by residents concerned about censorship. At the association's first board meeting, dot.com retiree and new dog owner Strother read from a pile of emails he'd printed out, asking if people thought they crossed lines of civility into personal attacks or foul language. One attendee loudly resigned from the group because of what he said were "too many personal attacks on me instead

of focusing on the group's mission." "Although the money raised by FOMS was well-spent, in today's market, three-quarters of a million dollars doesn't go far enough," said MSPF's Book. Book called on Potrero Hill's community leaders to become foundation trustees, roping in a stellar crew, including Downtown High School principal Mark Alvarado, Friends of Franklin Square's Antje Kann and Lester Zeidman, owner of Good Life Grocery. Other trustees include O'Neill, Michelle Stephens, Harry Ault, Peggy Lopipero-Langmo,

Continued on Page 19

POTRERO HILL FESTIVAL 2009 Saturday October 17th

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Housing Crises

Continued from Front Page

As housing prices skyrocketed in the last decade, homeowners took advantage of their increasing property values by refinancing their original loans, taking money out of their equity for home improvements or credit card payments. Or they sold their San Francisco properties and moved to the East Bay to buy a bigger and better "money house." "Let's say I go to a realtor and the realtor says my house is worth \$450,000. Do I go buy a \$450,000 house? No, I go buy a \$650,000 home with a loan," said Sampson. "And that's what's kicking my butt." According to Mary, during the run-up of housing prices most prospective homeowners didn't qualify for government bank or veteran loans, which offered fixed interest rates and down-payments as low as three percent. To close more deals, banks and finance companies lowered or eliminated their credit standards, offered minimal down-payments, and signed borrowers into loans that carried high fees and inflated as much as three times within a year or two of closing.

"People used their house as an ATM machine. Some people did home improvements, which would increase the value of the house. They weren't worried because they thought they would be able to sell their house later and make that money back," said Mary. A Bayview property that was purchased by someone's parents for \$30,000 a half-century ago would be worth \$260,000 one day, and upwards

of a half a million the next, according to Sampson. East Bay buyers traded their family home for a bigger house with pools and lawns.

"Many of the people who obtained those loans were not qualified," said "Linda," another Antioch-based real estate agent who preferred not to be named. "Mortgage Broker's padded numbers, and everything was stated income. There were no verifications made. Many borrowers took advantage of Washington Mutual's infamous pick a payment program, which gave the borrower four different options. Most went into these loans intending to pay the full monthly payment, but wound up choosing the lowest payment. That meant astronomical numbers in negative amortization. I know people who added thousands of dollars to their loan balance every single month. One I know borrowed \$700,000 and at the end of the second year, the loan balance was \$804,000. More than \$100,000 over what they originally borrowed. When the market crashed they ended up with a house worth \$350,000 and a mortgage of \$804,000. No way to refinance that one."

"You get a chance to move out to the suburbs, you get a chance to send your kids to a great school, they'll be safer, you can buy a house with a lawn; you might as well take advantage of that," said Sampson. For many of the people that moved to the East Bay, such as Muni and Sunset Scavenger drivers, the commute to their jobs didn't seem that bad because they got off work early enough to avoid end of the day traffic, he said.

The exodus from Bayview to the East Bay took its toll on neighborhood

churches. Many Bayview residents who moved east continued to attend Sunday services at their San Francisco church. But after several months they grew tired of the commute, said Sampson. To meet the shifting demand, pastors opened congregations in the East Bay. "In the suburbs, churches are big. In Antioch and Pittsburg, you got a church that covers the whole block. Why would you come down to the little one?" With the bursting of the housing bubble, many of these new churches closed, he said.

Housing was just one of the factors that prompted Bayview residents to leave their community. Families fled to the suburbs for the same reasons urban dwellers have done so for the past century: to find better amenities. "There's no supermarket here. There's not adequate transportation," said Sampson, who was a district manager for Lucky Stores before becoming a pastor. "It's happening by design. There are no advocates to preserve housing for low-income African-American residents of San Francisco," said Diane Wesley Smith, of Bayview Hunters Point Real Estate Professionals, and a candidate for next year's Board of Supervisor's race in District 10, which includes Bayview-Hunters Point. "They made it very attractive for people to move out to Antioch and Pittsburg." Smith called the African-American migration out of San Francisco an "exodus to uncertainty."

In 1951, Zerline Dixon, who moved to Bayview-Hunters Point from Louisiana to work as a Navy shipyard welder, bought her first house in Candlestick Heights and moved her five children in. Over the next 16 years, Dixon bought another six homes — four for her children, one for her granddaughter, and one for her mother — all on a janitor's salary. In the 1980s, Dixon's granddaughter Lola Whittle followed in her footsteps, buying her first U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-subsidized home at the age of 23. Whittle remains in the neighborhood, but has seen much of her community disappear over the years. Black residents make up only

6.8 percent of the City's population, half of the nation's average of 12.1 percent, and a fraction of what it was 20 years ago.

"My grandmother would get a house, live in it, get the mortgage down, then say 'here's your house; you owe \$13,000' and they'd pay the rest. By then, the children were working and they could afford to take over," said Whittle. "On a variable loan, they sold you a dream. After three years you could refinance, but in three years, everything changed. Nobody would give you anything. The value of the property went down. I've always stayed with a fixed loan because I grew up with this grandmother of mine that didn't ever do it any other way."

"Variable will sound good because a fixed interest rate is always going to be higher than a variable. With [Alan] Greenspan, when he kept lowering the interest rate, that was great. But for people who got those variable loans, they lost their properties because their monthly mortgage may have gone from \$1,200 a month to \$4,000," said Whittle. At one point Whittle considered investing in a property in a low-income area of Oakland, but decided not to; she would have had to take out a variable loan.

San Francisco's African-American homeowners and renters have also been disproportionately hit by the Great Recession. Last year there were 667 foreclosures in Southeast San Francisco, with upwards of one-third of those in Bayview-Hunters Point. According to Zackery Mack-Westrom, a foreclosure prevention counselor at the Bayview Housing Development Corporation, loan modifications are not available to everybody. "It's all about income stability and how big a person's budget deficit is. Someone with a budget deficit of \$1,000 or more per month probably doesn't have a huge chance," said Mack-Westrom. "I'm not seeing loan modifications actually happen," agreed Linda.

Bayview-Hunters Point still has one of San Francisco's highest

Continued on Page 21

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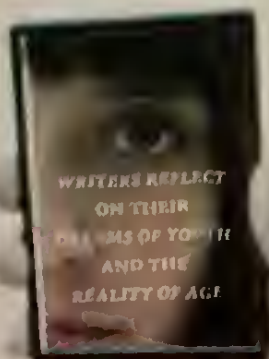
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THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

EDITED BY VICTORIA ZACKHEIM



MALACHY McCOURT • JOYCE MAYNARD
ALAN DERSHOWITZ • EILEEN GOUDGE
SANDRA GULLAND • AMONG OTHERS...

When you were young and idealistic, who did you see in the mirror? What were your expectations, your family's, your community's? Now that you're older, perhaps having attained your share of success, how do you feel about the person you've become and the direction your life has taken? Twenty gifted authors were asked these questions. Their responses, in the form of personal essays, constitute *The Face In The Mirror: Writers Reflect on Their Dreams of Youth and the Reality of Age*. Join Kathi Kamen Goldmark, Margot Duxler, Laurie Stone, Richard Toon, Victoria Zackheim, and others for a reading from the anthology at 7 p.m., September 29, Farley's. Sponsored in part by Christopher's Books.



Local children practiced their theater and dance skills at a performance of *The Girl Who Lost Her Smile* at the Thick House Theatre in August. Photo by Lisa Tehrani.

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arts

& ENTERTAINMENT

September 2009

Through September 13

Theatre: KML Patronizes The Arts
Killing My Lobster presents a world premiere comedy production, *KML Patronizes the Arts*, directed by Erin Carter and co-produced by Todd Brotze and Michael Hoch. The series of vignettes considers art in the every day and the artist within. Thursday and Friday 8 p.m.; Saturday 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20; students \$15. Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida Street. Ticket purchases and information: www.killingmylobster.com.

September

Art: Signals from the Vagus Gyre
Artist, architect and longtime Potrero Hill resident Terry Lindahl shares a series of watercolor paintings expressing a study of objectivity in art. The vertically ascendant triptychs seek to evoke an impartial conscious and objective reason. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

September 8 through January 19

Family: There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak
Adults and children alike can view a retrospective of more than 100 original watercolors, drawings and rare sketches, including never-before-seen

working materials by Maurice Sendak, author of the 1963 classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*. The exhibit includes a look at Sendak's Jewish family life, his childhood adventures in Brooklyn and how personal experiences shaped his tales. Daily (except Wednesday) 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets: adults \$10; students and seniors \$8; youth \$5; Thursdays after 5 p.m. \$5. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission Street. Information: www.thecjm.org.

September 9

Music: The Soul Delights
The San Francisco based R&B band returns for an evening of music and fun. 8 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

September 11

Music: Kitka & Kostroma in Concert
Kitka and Kostroma's two female vocal ensembles will present ancient Slavic songs, dances, and rituals intended to summon love, marriage, fertility, and abundant harvests. Kitka's singers will focus on Eastern European women's vocal traditions, while Kostroma's will present folksongs and dances from Russia's remote villages. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; students and seniors \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. St. Gregory of Nyssen Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro Street. Information: www.kitka.org.

September 12

Fundraiser: Nepal S.E.E.D.S Dinner and Celebration
Nepal S.E.E.D.S celebrates 11 years of grassroots efforts to help some of Nepal's poorest villages with an evening of Nepali food and drinks and a silent auction. 7 p.m. Tickets: \$75 in advance; \$90 at the door. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. Ticket purchases and information: www.nepalseeds.org

September 13

Community: Potrero Hill Garden Tour
Now's your chance to see what lies behind that garden gate! Several Potrero Hill gardeners are opening their gardens for a tour. Sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and the Potrero Hill Garden Club, the event will raise funds for the new Potrero Hill library. Docents and master gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions. Plants will be for sale at some gardens. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25 each; two for \$40; on sale at Farley's and Christopher's Books. Information: 648.1926.

September 15

Community: Storytelling
An evening of storytelling, poetry, spoken word, music and song. Open mic to follow; bring a story, poem or song to share. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

September 17

Community: Fireworks
Find your best vantage point to check out the brief fireworks show being put on for a private event sponsored by PRA Destinations at China Basin. 10 p.m. Third Street at Terry A. Francois Boulevard.

Music: Terry Hagerty and Randy Craig
Two Bay Area legends will perform jazz improv: Terry Haggerty on guitar (Sons of Champlin) and Randy Craig on piano (Pickle Family Circus, The Mime Troupe.) 8 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

September 19

Health: San Francisco Natural Medicine's 20th Anniversary Party
Celebrate San Francisco Natural Medicine's 20th anniversary at an open house with its doctors and The Green Dentist. Learn the latest in natural medicine and green dentistry, and partake in refreshments, gifts and give-a-ways. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free. 1615 20th Street.

Street Fair: Roadworks Steamroller Prints

San Francisco's Center for the Book Sixth annual Roadworks Steamroller Prints street fair will bring local artists and community members together to create large-scale linoleum block carvings printed with a three-ton steamroller. The fair will include arts and crafts vendors, music, food and kids' activities. 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Rhode Island between 16th and 17th streets Information: www.sfcbook.org/php/event.php

September 29

Reading: The Face in the Mirror
Christopher's Books sponsors a reading from the new anthology *The Face in the Mirror: The Dreams on Youth and the Reality of Age*, edited by Potrero Hill resident Victoria Zackheim. Several contributors, including local writers Kathi Kamen Goldmark and Margot Duxler, will be read from the book. 7 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

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	Sharaine Bell, David King, Bill Samios	
June 19th	2425 17th St	"Death by Color"
	Cameron Chernoff, Catherine Reed	
July 10th	744 Alabama St	"Urban Birdseye: Quilts, Places and Other Things"
	Summer Lee, Mac McNamara, Karen Slovak, Colleen Stockmann	
July 17th	2425 17th St	"Body Language: figurative art speaks"
	Emily Citraro, Georgianne Fastai, Romulo R Nisnisan Jr(ROM)	
August 14th	744 Alabama St	"Arts Ecclectic"
	MacKenzie Davis, Mary Lou Hanley, Michelle Jader, Traci Zaretska	
August 21st	2425 17th St	"Line of Sight"
	Charles Keatts, Steven Scotten, Tim Svenonius	
September 11th	744 Alabama St	"Adventures in Photography"
	Keith Gidlund, Walter Hanley, Don Ross	



Buy Art at the Source... visit our website to see the artists works:

www.artexplosionstudios.com

Police Blotter

August 21, 3:15 a.m., Aggravated Assault with a Knife, 25th and Connecticut streets: Officers Borghesani and Cheng responded to San Francisco General Hospital regarding a stabbing victim. The officers spoke with the victim, who was in the trauma room suffering from stab wounds to the chest, but in stable condition. The victim wouldn't divulge to the officers how he got stabbed. The person who drove the victim to the hospital told the officers that he found the bleeding victim walking up 25th Street, and gave him a ride. The officers searched for a crime scene, witnesses and additional victims, with no success.

August 15, 1:45 a.m., 25th and Minnesota streets: A victim was robbed of his cab at gunpoint. Sergeant McCray located the cab, abandoned in another area. The victim told officers that he was driving his cab on 25th Street when an unknown subject flagged him down. The cab driver pulled over, and was told by the fare to wait a minute. The cab driver got out of his car and noticed that the fare was walking back towards him, pointing a gun at him. The cab driver panicked and ran to the nearest gas station to call police. The suspect jumped in the cab and fled. The victim was not injured during the robbery.

August 13, 3 p.m., Possession of a Firearm, Violation of Probation and Stay-Away Order, Missouri Street: Members of the San Francisco Police Department's Narcotics team were in the area of Turner Terrace when they saw a subject, known well from numerous prior incidents and on probation, duck behind a car as soon

as he saw the officers. The officers made contact with the subject, and performed a probation search of him and his car, locating a loaded firearm in the vehicle. The suspect was placed under arrest and transported to Bayview Station, along with the firearm. Gang Task Force members took over the investigation.

August 5, 8:30 p.m., Aggravated Assault with a Knife, 16th and Mississippi streets: Officers Talusan and Doherty responded to a call regarding a stabbing victim. The officers spoke to the victim, who told them that he had gotten into a verbal altercation with his friend, the suspect. The suspect pulled out a knife and cut the victim's wrist with it. The victim was treated by a medic at the scene. The officers didn't locate the suspect.

August 5, 3:27 p.m., Robbery with a Weapon, Hit and Run, 2400 block of San Bruno: Officers Hernandez and Lee responded to a store on San Bruno Avenue regarding a shoplifting incident. The officers spoke to the shop owner, who stated that two subjects walked into the store, chose several items off the shelf, paid for some of them and walked out of the store. The owner chased after the suspects and attempted to retrieve the stolen items. The suspects jumped into a car and sped away, nearly hitting the store owner as they went. No one was injured during the incident.



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Whether you attend this special Mass or not, please know all are welcome to attend Mass at our church.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:15pm

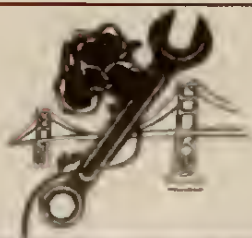
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McKinley Square

Continued from Page 14

Frank Gilson, and Dick Millet. Book is looking to fill two more board seats. MSPF has already procured a \$25,000 contribution from a private donor, and is looking to apply for funds from the Community Opportunity Fund and Challenge Grant, both sponsored by the City. "We are committed to raising money on behalf of the community to make long-term improvements at our park," Book said.

Book has lived across from McKinley Square since she built her house on Vermont Street almost a decade ago. Like many Hill residents she feels passionately about the park, calling it a "tiny gem." With a background in mass communications and chief executive officer of her own media venture, Book is most interested in fundraising to expedite park improvements. "Early on, we made a commitment to our community and with RPD [Recreation and Park Department]; to partner with them, be under their direction and guidance," said Book. "We look to RPD to lead in community outreach and education." RPD launched the first of a series of park visioning meetings late last month.

According to Book, MSPF stewarded 13 neighborhood groups to apply for grants, under RPD's overall direction, resulting in \$2,000 in awards. A portion of these funds went to the McKinley Square children's group, sponsored by MSCA board member Upton; the rest was directed to Friends of McKinley Square Park, sponsored by MSCA treasurer Strother. The monies will pay for a foxtail eradication effort, among other things.

"There's an overwhelming number of Hill residents who are what a research polling firm described as 'politically active,'" said Book "and they are very diverse and well-organized." They include "a five-person Kansas Street group headed by Raymond O'Connor, the 300-plus Potrero Neighbors group headed by Julie Jackson, April Ellis' San Bruno Avenue group that focuses on 'the Benches,' to the community garden and we can't forget Potrero

Hill Beautiful!" said Book. Then there's the Potrero Hill Parents Association, with 500-plus active members, according to O'Neill. All told, "there are probably 1,600-plus people who are actively involved in the planning issues surrounding our park," said Book.

"The demographics of Potrero Hill have changed drastically in the last five to 10 years," asserted Book. "We're seeing an increase in families, small children who are staying put well past the three to five-year-old turnaround, and dogs. In this economy, we're also seeing more people enjoying their neighborhood park versus driving across town to Golden Gate Park and beyond," said Book.

According to Strother, RPD data suggests that the off-leash dog play area comprises roughly 60 percent of the park; 1.6 acres out of total of 2.8 acres. Book, who has two dogs, said, "If you go to the park from 5 to 8 p.m. every night, you'll see lots of dogs running around." While the majority of the park is dedicated to dogs, the off-leash area isn't easily accessible, nor particularly safe due to the prevalence of foxtail weeds, which can be fatal to dogs. "If you look at what the dogs have, it's the hillside," said Strother. As a result, dogs and families tend to be squeezed into a limited space.

The dogs versus children debate has popped up in virtually every City park, as more people and dogs are squeezed into finite green spaces. According to the Trust for Public Land (TPD), San Francisco ranks third nationwide in terms of the number of dog parks per 100,000 residents in the nation. TPD also indicates that San Francisco is first when it comes to park-related expenditures per resident.

According to Book, this month MSPF will hire a landscape architectural firm to work with the community and RPD to design a long-term, master plan for the park, one that Book hopes will serve "generations to come. We're looking to solutions that will increase usage all throughout the entire six acres of the park," Book said. "Because we feel that's healthy. Healthy parks foster healthy communities. Part of that is to increase accessibility for seniors, toddlers, the disabled."

Going to War

By David Matsuda

I didn't take leave during my first deployment to Iraq, in 2007 and 2008. Fourteen days – known as "a two week good-bye" – is too short a time. The sleep debt incurred by passing through multiple time zones would, I reasoned, cloud my senses and hinder my ability to meaningfully reconnect with my anxious family, who'd suffer from no such REM deprivation. And as a contractor my employment terms contained a clause that made it all too easy for me not to return. This logic, be it rational or stubbornness twisted by the fog of war, saw me through more than a year of training and deployment without a visit home.

Prior to my 2009 tour of duty with United States Army I Corps, my former Human Terrain Team chief surprised me by sponsoring my participation in a seminar at the U.S. Army War College. The seminar dates fell at the end of four months – a third of the way through my tour – and coincided with my wife Kristi's 50th birthday. I eagerly planned to blend business with pleasure at Carlisle Barracks, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with my family.

A month of *baboob* (silt storms) miraculously cleared before my flight from Baghdad to Kuwait. I caught up with an officer who'd left Baghdad the day before me. As we admired a landscape sun-bleached by 120 degree temperatures we were joined periodically by old friends heading to and from Iraq. Soon enough we parted company, the officer on a military flight to officially demobilize, and me on a 15-hour

flight to Carlisle Barracks.

Stiff and sleepy after a day of transoceanic passage and delayed domestic flights, I rented a car and drove to Carlisle Township, where I checked into both hotel and seminar, took a shower and drove back to the airport to meet my family. We saw each other from a distance, and after a mad dash it was hugs and slobbery kisses all around. As we reveled in each other I simultaneously became vulnerable to my family's love, and to my enemies hatred and mission to take my life and deny our future. Fearlessness in the face of death would have to be a reacquired trait.

War College students receive a Masters of Military Science. My role was to show them the value of culture, understanding and protecting the civilian population, and to demonstrate how non-lethal operations are changing the nature of warfare. In seminar after seminar I talked about how on countless occasions an understanding of culture enabled me to diffuse what might have been a faux paux or a fight. When not in class my family and I toured colonial Pennsylvania townships, and the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg. When school was out for the summer we visited friends in Connecticut.

All too soon it was time to take leave of my family again. Going to war is easy with months to transition mentally and to prepare the heart emotionally. But to replicate this age old separation ritual in two weeks is impossible.

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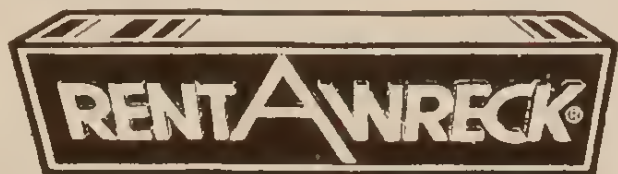
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Work

Continued from Front Page

spring Miley had been unemployed since the previous fall, when she quit her manager job at a Mountain View biotechnology company. The Stanford graduate had been emailing resumes, lunching with contacts, and working the telephone, with little result. Her savings were running out, and she'd begun avoiding expensive lattes at cafés. Change came suddenly. A recruiter called. He'd seen her resume posted in the vastness of Monster.com. Within weeks she was managing projects at Genentech in South San Francisco. "I can't believe I was sending resumes out to people, and writing these long, heart-felt, passionate emails to people, and then the way I got this is somebody just called me and I picked up the phone," Miley said. She'd held out for a job with a short commute, and now can bike to work. The company even offers employees inexpensive lattes. "I have a really good situation right now," Miley said.

When Mindy Kener began working at Visitacion Valley's JobNet two years ago someone told her that unemployment in the neighborhood was 60 percent, and asked if she still wanted the job. Kener, the program's senior job developer, believes that the local job situation has improved over the past six months. JobNet has placed people into training programs for construction and solar panel installation. Twenty-five newly trained solar installers, many of whom received paid on-the-job instruction, are now waiting for work. "The solar industry is starting to happen. It's slow because it's through the government stimulus money. So we're waiting for that money to come in."

Terry Anders is similarly optimistic about the future. Anders is president of the Anders and Anders Foundation, a referral agency with San Francisco's CityBuild Academy, which trains residents for construction jobs. His Visitacion Valley-based office is close to a slate of building projects that are projected to create 3,700 construction jobs over the next two decades, according to the Office of the Economic Analysis. The long empty Schlage Lock factory is finally being demolished, with plans to redevelop the land into a mix of new housing and retail space. There are plans to revitalize Leland Street, which is populated by a smattering of small businesses, and to rebuild the Sunnydale housing projects. "There are some positive aspirations coming to this area that are very needed," Anders said.

This month Florence Crittenton Services – which provides child care, mentoring, and job readiness programs – will open the first branch

of the City's One Stop employment office in Visitacion Valley. The organization has partnered with nonprofit Chinese Newcomers Services Center, which offers free services, such as job preparation and help with income tax filing to immigrants, in a neighborhood where more than half the residents are Asian-American. Susan Murphy, director of Florence Crittenton's jobs program says she's seen more Asians attending her job preparation workshops in the last half year, including a woman with a PhD. "They have to find what other resources are available to be able to put food on the table. And there's no shame now because they have to do what needs to be done."

In Bayview-Hunters Point the recession appears to have added little additional pain to a neighborhood racked by 30 percent unemployment even when San Francisco's jobless rate – now at about 10 percent – was in the single digits. We would joke that it was already bad in Bayview and that it was just business as usual for people in that community, said FJ Cava, a Bayview resident and owner of the now defunct Bayview Webspot, an Internet café. "They were already unemployed, so although the recession is hard this is how we live day to day anyway."

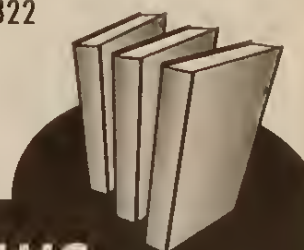
The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, or Nabe, has long been a resource for the community's impoverished to look for employment assistance. But the nonprofit itself is facing lean times. In the first half of 2009 the Nabe lost both its deputy director and jobs coordinator because of funding cuts. The stimulus package brought some jobs to Nabe referrals – cleaning at San Francisco International Airport and for the Department of Public Works – but those were temporary, according to Nabe executive director Edward Hatter. Green jobs have yet to materialize. "Education and training is all we can give you right now," Hatter said.

Hatter was particularly pained by news that a former Nabe employee and Bayview resident, who'd gone to work as a counselor for the Sheriff's Department, had been laid off. "I said wait a minute, not you. He'd been there for like six years. He's done everything right. He grew up in the neighborhood, he went away to college, he graduated from college, worked in the neighborhood, took a job in the Sheriff's Department to do more work for the neighborhood, and here he is unemployed, with no real prospects."



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LIBRARY NEWS

Abby Bridge, Potrero Branch Librarian

Jasmin Springer, Mission Bay Branch Children's Librarian

Interim Services during Potrero Branch closure

Bookmobile service is provided on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the north side of 1502 Mariposa Street, adjacent to the Jackson Park Recreation Center building. Bookmobile services include borrowing, returning, reserving or picking up materials, and obtaining or renewing a library card.

Potrero children's programs for September:

Family Storytime, featuring stories, songs and rhymes. For infants to five years-old and their caregiver. Thursdays, September 3, 10, 17, and 24, 10:30 a.m. St. Teresa's Community Hall, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

Mission Bay Library

The Mission Bay Library is located at 960 Fourth Street, at Berry, near AT&T Park. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Muni N and T lines are a block away, at Fourth and King Streets, and street parking is on Channel Street, also a block away. The branch phone number is 355.2838. Additional branch information can be found at <http://missionbaylibrary.blogspot.com>.

Mission Bay's programs for September:

Baby Rhyme Time. Interactive music, rhymes, bounces, books, and more for infants to two year-olds and their caregivers. Thursdays, September 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:15 a.m.

Toddler Tales. Music, rhymes, books, movement and more for 18 to 36 months and their caregivers. Fridays, September 4, 11, 18, 25, 4:30 p.m.

Preschool Storytimes. Stories, songs, rhymes and more for children ages three to five. Thursdays, September 3, 10, 17, 24, 4:30 p.m.

Children's Yoga. Certified yoga instructor Tatjana Rmus will lead a class for children ages three to five and their caregivers. Bring a mat or towel. Wednesday, September 2, 5:30 p.m.

Family Sing-A-Long with Jim Stevens. Stevens will play guitar and sing children's and folk songs. A fun-filled music and movement program for children of all ages. Saturday, September 19, 2 p.m.

One City One Book Discussion. Discuss Doug Dorst's *Alive in Necropolis*, the selection for One City One Book: San Francisco Reads 2009! Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Potrero Library Campaign

The Potrero Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. The next meeting is September 2 at 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to join the campaign committee, please contact Mary Abler at Friends of the Library: 626.7512, extension 107 or mary.abler@friendssfpl.org.

Potrero Hill's Hidden Gems – Garden Tour, September 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A private self-guided tour of Potrero Hill gardens, sponsored by the Potrero Neighborhood Library Campaign, in coordination with the Potrero Hill Garden Club. Participants will tour neighborhood private and public gardens, purchase plants and cuttings to benefit the Potrero Branch Library Campaign. Tickets are \$25 each or \$40 for two, and can be purchased at Farley's, Christopher's, and other locations. Proceeds will help fund new furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the remodeled Potrero Branch Library.

Bands for Books – September 26, 2 to 6 p.m., Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th Street, The Connecticut Yankee, 100 Connecticut Street, and Concentra Medical, 2 Connecticut Street. This benefit for the Potrero Branch Library Campaign will feature family-friendly bands, a silent auction, and a play area for kids. \$20 per adult, \$5 per child, \$10 total for two or more children in a family. If you're interested in donating an item to the silent auction, please contact Mary Abler at 626.7512, extension 107 or mary.abler@friendssfpl.org.

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Get a Job!

By Mauri Schwartz

Times are tough. Over the past year millions of Americans have been laid-off, and although the number of newly unemployed is declining, the economy has yet to add new jobs. Still, even during these bleak times companies are hiring. The competition is tough, but if someone is going to be hired, why can't it be you?

Q: Two months and 45 resume submittals later, I've had only one job interview. I know it's difficult in this economy, but I feel that no one's even reading what I'm sending out. Is there something else I should be doing?

A: Your problem could be one of several issues, or a combination. Are you fully qualified for the positions to which you're applying? Does your resume present your qualifications in a clear, succinct manner? Assuming that these two issues aren't at the root of your problem, you may be correct that no one is reading your resume. You and possibly hundreds of other applicants are all trying to get through the front door at the same time. I recommend taking the time to research and identify a decision maker within each of your target companies, including email address, and contact that person directly. A client recently told me about interviewing for a job posted on a company's web site. The hiring

manager told her that she'd received more than 700 resumes through the company's website for the position, and couldn't possibly review all of them. She'd decided to look only at resumes that came directly to her mail box.

Q: What do you think about putting an objective statement in my resume? I've been told that I should always have one at the beginning just under my name.

A: I strongly recommend against using an objective statement, except in rare circumstances. A resume should be written with a specific audience in mind. You'll want to modify your resume to match your target position, and your objective should be obvious from the wording of your resume. The best an objective statement can do for you is nothing and therefore waste space. The worst is that you forget to change the statement and submit your resume for a totally different position. This wouldn't be putting your best foot forward. Almost as bad is that you could miss out on an attractive opportunity at the same company that may not exactly match your stated objective.

The View asked Hill resident and career expert Mauri Schwartz to provide advice to job seekers. Submit your questions to editor@potreroview.net. Schwartz is President / CEO of Career Insiders www.CareerInsiders.com, and can be reached directly at 970-8959.

Housing Crises

Continued from Page 15

homeownership rates, according to Mack-Westrom. Most of these homeowners, he said, bought their property more than 20 years ago. From the late 1940s through the 1970s, thousands of African-Americans in the Fillmore District were displaced by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's urban renewal program. Almost 5,000 businesses, 2,500 households and 883 Victorian homes were demolished, displacing more than 5,000 families. Many African-Americans moved to Bayview, East Palo Alto, Berkeley, and Oakland, and, more recently, Antioch, Pittsburg, Brentwood, and Stockton.

Some African-Americans see Bayview-Hunters Point's redevelopment as another Fillmore in the works. "This is not the first time this has happened," recalled Sampson. "Way back in the 60s, when my mother was living on Northridge Road, there was a planned exodus from this community. They were offering housing with really good rates through HUD, to go to Palo Alto. At that time, Palo Alto was not incorporated and did not offer any services. A lot of people fell victim to that, including my mother. We were going to buy a house in Palo Alto, but my mother changed her mind."

Whittle's mother, Yvonne Dillon, remembers attending town hall meetings at which former mayor Willie Brown advised Bayview residents not to sell their homes. "If we sold them now, we'd get 'mini'. If we held on, we'd get many," said Dillon. "Many elderly died off and left their homes to their children, many of whom were drug addicts. Many decided to go back to the south, where their roots were. Some thought they could get \$700,000 to \$800,000 for a house and pay cash and get six bedroom homes in the suburbs."

"My mother was thinking of moving to San Jose in 1980," said Lola Whittle. "My boss, who was a real estate attorney, said 'Whatever you do, do not leave this City and purchase that property. Anything you own in San Francisco is going to be worth it. Twenty years from now, you're going to see a transition of people moving from the suburbs - upper class and white people - and wanting to live in the City.' So we held on," said Whittle.

"Now you have people moving to the suburbs. You look at Richmond and there's two people getting killed a day. Those people are still commuting to the City. You do that and after two or three years, it's tough," said Whittle. "And BART is going up. Everything is going up."

"In order to remain [in San Francisco], you have to work. You have to make some kind of achievement so you can be part of this development and growth," said Whittle. "I'm not here because I'm special or because somebody gave me anything special. It's because I have been working since I was 15. If my mother had stayed on welfare, maybe I wouldn't have had so much tenacity and perseverance."

Maria has been cleaning houses in Antioch for the past quarter century. She was a renter until eight years ago, when a friend who worked for a bank persuaded her to buy a home. "We didn't know how to buy a house or

what to do. When they tried to sell us the house, they gave us the idea that it was much easier than it turned out to be," she said. Maria had been on time with payments until about two years ago, when she decided to refinance the loan to remodel the kitchen and replace the carpet. She thought it'd be a good investment. The interest on her monthly payment doubled two years after she refinanced.

"I thought it would be fixed for 30 years. The bank people didn't tell me it would go up," said Maria, who can no longer keep up with the payments. "I clean houses and right now there's not very much work. This is one of the reasons I cannot pay," she said. "It's only been two months since I stopped paying. We have three more to go before they send us the paper. I owe everything. I have no money."

There are roughly 1,200 foreclosed homes in Antioch, though the banks have placed only half of those on the market so as not to further suppress prices. In the meantime, rents have increased to prices comparable to the rest of the Bay Area. "People whose houses foreclosed are looking for rentals. And people who rent out know this," said Mary, the real estate agent. "By holding off on releasing foreclosures to the market they are once again falsely inflating the market. One of my clients has made 62 offers over asking price and still cannot get a home," said Linda.

"Barbara," a *Contra Costa News Register* employee who, like Mary and Linda, prefers not to give her name, said that every day she records an average of 100 notices of default and 150 trustee sales of foreclosed homes, which is down by a quarter from a year ago. "Five years ago, it was at 40 or 50 total a day," said Barbara. When she began working for the paper more than a decade ago, the daily average was about 20 notices of default and 10 trustee sales a day. Back then, even that was "shocking." A major influx of homebuyers occurred in 2006, she said. "People haven't had these houses that long."

"Three years ago or four years ago, people bought these beautiful new homes and weren't reading the fine print," said Jamie, a fifth generation African-American Antioch resident whose grandparents have lived in their home for 45 years. "You could tell these loan officers anything and they didn't even verify income. They thought they could afford it this year or these next two years, but people weren't aware that their mortgages were going to double or triple," she said. "Lots of the newer housing developments are boarded up. Before, it was like this is the good area and this is the bad area. Now, it's all intermingled."

"They put all these homes here but there's no work over here. Growth is good and change is good but sometimes when it's not strategically planned, it can become a disaster. I don't think they were fully prepared for the large amount of people that flocked here," said Jamie, adding that the influx of people from the Bay Area tripled in the past five years.

"Once you leave the Bayview, there ain't no coming back," one Bayview resident said. Many feel stranded in the East Bay after losing their homes, but can't afford to move back to San Francisco. "They feel they've moved to the ghetto," said Dillon.

It's Time to Shut it Down!

The California Independent System Operator's (Cal-ISO) latest data confirms what San Francisco Community Power has been saying for the past year: San Francisco will have more than enough electricity supplies after the Trans Bay Cable is operational without the Potrero Power Plant. Even the plant's owner, Mirant Corporation, is ready to close the facility. Enough is enough. It's time to shut the Potrero Power Plant down, and along with it the largest source of polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions in San Francisco.

The Cal-ISO board may decide the fate of the plant at its September 10/11 board meeting. PLEASE CONTACT BOARD CHAIR MASON WILRICH AND LET HIM KNOW YOU WANT THE PLANT CLOSED BY MAY 1. Just fill in and post this ad.

Dear Chairman Wilrich,

Cal-ISO's own data indicates that with the opening of the Trans Bay Cable San Francisco will have access to ample electricity supplies without the Potrero Power Plant. Plant closure will reduce polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions, eliminate super-heated water discharges into the bay, and enable a prime waterfront property to be redeveloped. San Franciscans have been calling for the plant to close for a decade; please make this a reality by removing all must-run contracts from the facility by May 1, 2010.

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Upcoming Events:

Bands for Books..... September 26th
a fundraiser for the Potrero Hill Library

Potrero Hill Festival October 17th

Potrero Hill History Night October 24th

Join us for our monthly general membership meeting:
2nd Tuesday; 10:00 AM at Goat Hill Pizza
Next meeting: September 8, 2009

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GETTING INVOLVED



Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **September 1st, 6 p.m.**

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **October 13th**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

McKinley Square Community Group is a communication and discussion group for community awareness regarding events and activities, clean up days, improvement and beautification, and other concerns such as crime in the neighborhood. Please email info@McKinleySquare.com for further information. Next meeting: Wednesday, **September 9th**, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953 De Haro Street starting at 6:30p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: **September 29th, 7 p.m.**

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **September 8th, 10 a.m.**

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next meeting: **September 1st, 7pm.**

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details.

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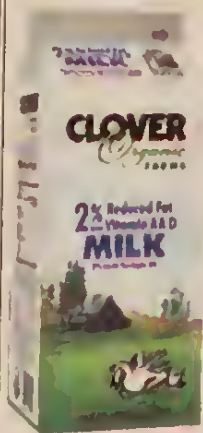
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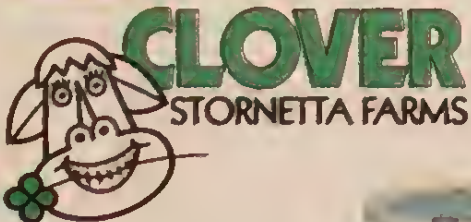
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